

floor today, that we can make it possible so he and Senator BYRD can lead us in completing that appropriations process.

So we look forward to working with you. Hopefully, we can get this done in the near future.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, after the Chair announces the period of morning business, I ask unanimous consent I be recognized in morning business, and then the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. GREGG, be recognized for up to 40 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Nevada.

LEGISLATION TO BE PASSED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we did have a meeting with the President yesterday. It was one where we talked about the things that need to be done. The people who were at the meeting are experienced and understand the legislative perils we face on a daily basis. But we also recognize there are things that need to be done for the country, and we have to work toward that.

I want to just briefly mention today that Senator DASCHLE introduced, on behalf of the Democratic caucus, bills that we believe are extremely important to pass. These are not necessarily in the order of importance, but the first bill introduced was S. 6, the Comprehensive Homeland Security Act.

Basically, this bill builds on legislative initiatives that were passed in the 107th Congress. It would authorize funding for important programs. We have big holes in our security blanket. We have to do something about chemical security, domestic nuclear plants. We have to do something about rail security, security of water treatment works, and border security efforts to combat terrorism generally. This legislation is, in my opinion, a must-do piece of legislation.

Prescription drugs has been talked about endlessly, with nothing having been done. It is so important that we pass legislation that makes Medicare a more meaningful, modern piece of legislation for our senior citizens.

When the Medicare legislation passed in 1965, there was really no need for

prescription drugs because they were not used as they are today to make people more comfortable, to save lives, and to prevent disease. But now that is part of the basic treatment that seniors have.

The average senior has 18 prescriptions filled every year. As a result, they pay large amounts out of their pocket for prescription drugs. What we have to do is provide a prescription drug benefit as part of Medicare. We need to do that and also in the process preserve Medicare. Medicare is not a perfect program, but it is a good program. People are saying it is about to go broke. Medicare is not about to go broke. And always remember that Medicare is a pay-as-you-go program. We continually have to refund and figure out ways to finance Medicare. That is the way it is. It is different than Social Security.

So a prescription drug benefit is important for Medicare. Also, it is important we get ahold of prescription drug prices generally for everybody. Prescription drugs in this country are tremendously expensive, more expensive than in any other country, even though we develop and manufacture and produce most of them. It is not fair we spend more on prescription drugs than other countries. It is not fair they are cheaper in Canada and cheaper in Mexico than they are in the United States.

The Leave No Child Behind Act is something that is an important piece of legislation, but the problem now is that it is not funded. We have to provide full funding for this No Child Left Behind Act. We have to hold States accountable for ensuring that all students have access to educational resources.

We have to guarantee full funding of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

The Senator from New Hampshire has been a loud advocate for doing something to fund that program. We have to, as part of S. 8, help communities modernize public schools, and there are other things we need to do included in S. 8 that we need to debate and pass this year.

S. 9 is the protection for pensions. This is a buildup of last year's corporate scandals and the 3-year stock market decline. They have simply highlighted the need to strengthen pension protections. That is what S. 9 is all about.

S. 10 deals with the more than 40 million people who have no health insurance. There are many other people who have inadequate health insurance. We have to do something to provide some way of these people getting decent medical care. Over 40 million people with no health insurance says it all. That is what S. 10 is all about.

As to the Equal Rights and Equal Dignity for Americans Act, we believe that we have to expand hate crimes protection, strengthen enforcement of existing civil rights laws, support legal representation for indigent Americans,

and respond to the injustice of racial profiling. That is what S. 16 is all about. It is important legislation that needs to be passed.

Global warming is S. 17. There is no question, there is no debate—sensibly, logically, intellectually—that global warming is taking place. It is. The question is, what are we going to do about it? That is the key.

We as Democrats talk about the minimum wage. We do it because most people have the stereotype that people who draw the minimum wage are kids flipping hamburgers at McDonald's. That is not the case. In fact, 60 percent of the people who draw the minimum wage are women; for 40 percent of those women, that is the only money they get for them and their families. So it is really important that we do something to increase the minimum wage. The minimum wage act would in two steps raise the minimum wage by \$1.50: 75 cents when we pass the legislation; 75 cents after that. It is important we do that.

Many people who work two and sometimes three jobs, most of them part time, are paid the minimum wage. We need to increase that. That is the right thing to do.

I was very happy the leader included in his package of must-do legislation for the Democratic caucus this year the Veterans and Military Personnel Fairness Act. Among other provisions, this includes expanding full concurrent receipt of military retirement. We have made a little bit of progress over the last couple years. Last year we made the most progress, but we are still lacking.

If you retire from the military and have a medical disability, you cannot draw both pensions. Prior to last year, no one could. Last year we provided that people who are Purple Heart recipients basically can. We need to expand that. I was very happy the leader included this legislation that I authored and have worked on very closely with Senators LEVIN and WARNER. It has taken years to get where we are now. We will continue to try to expand until people who retire from the military and have a disability can draw the same pension as somebody who retires from Sears and Roebuck and the Department of Interior and has the military disability. They should be able to draw the pension just the same. We want that to happen.

S. 21, the Emergency Disaster Assistance Act, addresses severe drought and floods, natural disasters farmers and ranchers face all over the country. We need to do more to take care of these desperate people. Time magazine had their pictures of the year. I looked at that last night before going to bed. It is interesting to note that a number of those pictures deal with the drought that has taken place. One picture is of a 67-year-old farmer. For the first time in his career, he has nothing. He said: Farmers know what to do when it rains; we don't know what to do when it doesn't rain.

That is what this legislation is all about. I hope in the spirit of what the majority leader talked about today and the President talked about at the White House yesterday we can work together to pass this legislation.

The majority has pieces of legislation that they believe are important to pass. What we should do is work together. They have pieces of our legislation. Maybe we can work together. That is what we should do to pass the legislation. I don't think there would be many who would disagree that this legislation is important. They may not agree with every part of it, but that is what legislation is about. Legislation is the art of compromise. I hope we can move forward and do some compromising and some legislating.

Before the Senator takes his 40 minutes, I would say to my friends on the Democratic side, prior to their arriving, Senator GREGG asked for 40 minutes of the hour that the Republicans have set aside. He will do that now. Do you want to lock in a time for the two Senators now?

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I would need 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. You are entitled to 10. So following the remarks of the Senator from New Hampshire, the Senator from Arkansas will speak. The Senator from Minnesota?

Mr. DAYTON. If I may have 15.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the statement of the Senator from New Hampshire, the Senator from Arkansas be recognized for up to 10 minutes and the Senator from Minnesota for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GREGG. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I will speak for about 40 minutes. I understood the Senator from Arkansas only needed about 5 minutes. I am happy to yield to her now as long as it does not impact my 40 minutes, if the Senator from Arkansas wishes to proceed.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might proceed as in morning business for 5 minutes and that it not take anything out of the time of the Senator from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL JASON SMEDLEY

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I have some very important guests with me today in the Senate. I wanted to share that with my colleagues as well as my colleagues across the land.

I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who is with me today and who has served on my staff for the past year, Jason Smedley, of Little Rock, AK. We are joined today by his mother and his

girlfriend and many members of my staff. Jason is a lance corporal in the 4th Civil Affairs Group of the U.S. Marine Corps stationed here in Washington, DC.

On Friday, Jason and his colleagues will depart for the Middle East where he will await orders for potential U.S. military action against Iraq. Like all of the men and women who serve in our armed forces to preserve our liberties and ensure global security, Jason is making a tremendous sacrifice in service to his country.

As a senior at Howard University, Jason is only a few months away from completing studies and earning his degree which he plans to earn upon his return. He will be leaving behind his 2-year old daughter Isis and his parents James and Carolyn Smedley, all of Little Rock, AK.

For the next few months, Jason is offering his service in a cause greater than himself. I know that all of my colleagues and the American people join me in honoring Jason and the tens of thousands of men and women who, just like him, face similar sacrifices in the coming weeks and months.

From Arkansas alone, as of last week nearly 700 Guardsmen and reservists have been activated in support of the war on terrorism and for potential action against Iraq. These include troops from Little Rock, North Little Rock, Lincoln, Ogden, Ozark, Siloam Springs, Van Buren, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, and Fort Smith. I ask unanimous consent that the list of Arkansas units currently activated in support of the war on terrorism and potential action against Iraq be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mrs. LINCOLN. We are proud of each and every one of these men and women for their commitment to this country and to each of us. We look forward to welcoming them back when their work overseas is done. My own father who passed away in October was a veteran of the Korean war. He taught me to always respect the great commitment made by our troops in fighting to protect our freedoms. Our troops of today's generation deserve the same respect.

During Jason's service to Arkansas as a member of my staff, I have appreciated his hard work, as well as his energy and positive attitude. I look forward to welcoming him back to my staff as soon as possible. I am sure all of my colleagues here will join me in wishing Lance Corporal Jason Smedley the best in the months ahead.

I thank his mother and girlfriend for being here to share that with us today. Most importantly, I ask my colleagues, as we enter into the challenging months we have before us in this great country, that we look not only within ourselves but around us to our immediate family, to our extended family, to our Senate family, and to all of

those lives that are going to be, have been, and will be affected. This is a great country. The freedoms we enjoy, the incredible potential that we have is right here in people such as Jason Smedley.

I ask my colleagues to join me as we wish Jason well in his endeavors and as he goes to take on whatever his duties may be on behalf of the American people. I thank my colleague from New Hampshire for affording me the opportunity to salute someone who has meant an awful lot to me in my life and in my work and now to me, as an American citizen, and to the rest of this great country.

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, especially, to Lance Corporal Jason Smedley. We bid you well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

EXHIBIT 1

The following units from Arkansas have been activated as of December 31, 2002:

Army National Guard:

N. Little Rock, State Area Command, AR Army NG HQ;

Ft. Smith, 142nd Field Artillery HHB, 2nd Battalion;

Lincoln, 2-142nd Field Artillery, HHSB, Detachment 1;

Ogden, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion Co. A, Detachment 4;

Ogden, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion Co. A, Detachment 3;

Ozark, 142nd Field Artillery Battery C, 2nd Battalion;

Siloam Springs, 142nd Field Artillery, 2nd Battalion, Battery B;

Van Buren, 142nd Field Artillery, 2nd Battalion, Battery A;

West Memphis, 216th Military Police Company Guard Company;

Little Rock, 149th Medical Company Forward, Detachment 1; and

Little Rock, State Area Command, AR Army National Guard HQ.

Army Reserve:

Fayetteville, 362nd Psychological Ops. Co. EF SPT ELE;

Fayetteville, 362nd Psychological Ops. OEF SPT ELE 2;

Little Rock, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion;

Little Rock, 460 Chemical Brigade, Detachment 1; and

Pine Bluff, 92nd Chemical Battalion, Detachment 1.

Air National Guard:

Little Rock, 189th Airlift Wing; and

Fort Smith, 189th Airlift Wing.

Navy Reserves:

Little Rock, Naval Support Activity Bahrain, Detachment C.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I join with the Senator from Arkansas in thanking her staff member for going to serve our country. We wish him good luck and godspeed as he goes forth to protect us.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I wanted to speak today on a number of issues—primarily on the issue of the legislation we passed a year ago, which was landmark legislation, called “No Child